I. *Part of a Letter from Dr.* Charles Leigh *of* Lancaſhire *to the Publiſher, giving an account of ſtrange Epileptick Fits.*

June 26. 1702.

WE have this Year had an epidemical Fever, attended with very ſurprizing Symptoms, in the beginning the Patient was frequently attacked with the *Colica Ventriculi*; Convulſions in various parts, ſometimes violent Vomitings and a Dyſentery; the Jaundice, and in many of them a ſuppreſſion of Urine; and what Urine was made, was highly ſaturated with Choler: About the ſtate of the Diſtemper, large Purple Spots appear'd, and on each ſide of 'em two large Bliſters, which continued 3 or 4 days; theſe Bliſters were ſo placed about the Spots, that they might in ſome meaſure be term'd Satellites or Tenders; of theſe, there were in many four different eruptions; but the moſt remarkable inſtance I ſaw in this Fever, was in a poor Boy of *Lymm* in *Cheſhire*, one *John Pownel*, about 13 years of Age, who was afflicted with the following Symptoms; upon the Criſis or turn of the Fever, he was ſeized with an *Aphonia*, and was ſpeechleſs 6 weeks, with the following Convulſions; the Diſtemper infeſted the Nerves of both Arms and Legs, which produc'd the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, or *St Vitus*'s Dance; the Legs ſometimes were both ſo contracted, that no perſon could reduce them to their natural poſition; beſides theſe, he had moſt terrible Symptoms, which begun in the following manner; he cou'd perceive the Fits to come on about the *Os-Sacrum* or extremity of the Back-bone, and the Region of the Navel, and then the diſorder, as he imagined, united about the top of his Head; he immediately afterwards fell into violent Convulſions in the

the Abdomen or loweſt Cavity, with that violence, that ſometimes two or three perſons were forced to lye upon him to keep him in Bed, his Body being frequently rais'd from it; after this, the Nerves of the Lungs were immediately affected, and then he barked in all the uſual notes of a Dog, ſometimes Snarling, Barking, and at the laſt howling like an Hound; after this, the Nerves of the Mandibles were convuls'd, and then the Jaws claſh'd together with that violence, that ſeveral of his Teeth were beaten out, and then at ſeveral times there came a great foam from his Mouth; afterwards he had an extream wild look, ſnatching at any thing near him, and would have tore off his Fleſh, had he not been prevented by the perſons about him; this made me conjecture he might formerly have been bit by a mad Dog, which had introduced the *Hydrophobia*; but I was convinced to the contrary, for I put a Baſon of Water by him, and he was not in the leaſt afraid of it, nor attempted to lap it. I ſaw him in three of theſe Fits, but at other times in theſe Convulſions, he roared like a Bull, made a noiſe like a Hog, and ſometimes like that of a Goſſling; all which different ſounds, (I take it) proceed from the different contractions of the Lungs, variouſly forcing out the Air, and conſequently as they were differently convuls'd, form various ſounds; theſe Symptoms were ſo amazing, that ſeveral perſons about him believ'd he was poſſeſs'd: I told them there was no ground for ſuch Suppoſitions, but that the Diſtemper was natural, and a Species of an Epilepſy, and by the effects I convinc'd 'em of the truth of it; for in a week's time I recover'd the Boy his Speech, his Senſes return'd, his Convulſions vaniſh'd, and the Boy is now very cheerful: there have been other perſons in this Country much after the ſame manner: From this Caſe it is evident, that theſe Diſtempers are natural, ſince it cannot be imagined, that a Diabolical Spirit ſhould be ejected

by

by a regular courſe in Phyſic, it makes it appear to be an impious Cheat, to amuſe the Populace with thoſe Artifices; and if a man be not Bigotted, this inſtance may ſufficiently convince him, how vain it is to pretend to thoſe needleſs Miracles.

We whoſe names are Subſcribed, do know this caſe relating to *John Pownel* to be true.

William Domvile, Eſq;
Suſanna Domvile his Wife.
Franck Pyott, Houſekeeper.
John Pownell the Patient.
Alice Pownell his Mother.

II. *An*